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Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region

TECHNICAL NOTE

FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES IN KOUCHIBOUGUAC NATIONAL PARK IN 1988

Personnel of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey regularly survey national parks for forest insect and disease conditions. Some of the conditions encountered in Kouchibouguac National Park in 1988 are discussed briefly below.

Spruce budworm has been a major pest in Kouchibouguac National Park in past years. In 1988, the small amount of defoliation on the Park's conifers reflected the decline in population levels throughout most of New Brunswick. Fall sampling of overwintering larvae indicates that defoliation will again be low in 1989.

Gypsy moth is a major pest of forest and shade trees in southern Ontario, southern Quebec, the northeastern U.S. and, recently, southwestern New Brunswick and western Nova Scotia. In Kouchibouguac National Park, the adult pheromone trapping program continued in 1988 with assistance from Park staff. No moths were caught in the 15 traps placed and no other life stages of the gypsy moth were found in the Park. Visitors are requested to report any suspected gypsy moth to Park personnel.

Uglynest caterpillar - the primary host for this insect is choke cherry, but the caterpillars also feed on pin cherry, black cherry, and occasionally other plants. The larvae live in large numbers in tents or nests. Numerous nests were found at The Pines area of Kouchibouguac National Park in 1988.

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Birch leafminer, a minute insect which feeds between leaf surfaces, caused light browning at Kelly's Beach and near The Pines.

Birch casebearer lives in and feeds from a cigar-shaped case it constructs from leaf fragments. It mines the leaves, reaching into the leaf tissue as far as it can without completely leaving the case. Light and moderate defoliation of white birch and, to a lesser extent, wire birch was present throughout the Park.

Among pests of trembling aspen - Hypoxylon canker affected 30% of the trees near Kouchibouguac River; serpentine leafminer caused light discoloration throughout the Park; aspen leaffolders and leafrollers were present but caused very little damage; leaf and twig blight of aspen was present at moderate damage levels at Kelly's Beach.

Other organisms of interest - white pine weevil, feeding in the inner bark of leaders of open-growing pines and spruces continued to attack and kill leaders. About 30% of white pine near The Pines road were affected. Larch casebearer was present in low numbers on up to 30% of tamarack trees. Cherry blight was severe at Kelly's Beach and spruce bud moth caused light defoliation of many, open growing white spruce trees at Kelly's Beach.

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